

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 6, No. 8

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

February 27, 2004

OIF II deployments continue for Miramar Marines



Three-year-old Kaleigh sits alongside her father, Staff Sgt. William J. Hill, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical specialist, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, while waiting for 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines at the armory here to leave in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Approximately 200 3rd MAW Marines deployed Feb. 20. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Approximately 200 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines loaded up their combat gear and picked up their weapons at the armory here as they prepared to leave on a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II Feb. 20.

Elements of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, Marine Aircraft Group 16 and Marine Wing Support Group 37 deployed to the Central Command area of operations as part of the aviation combat element of I Marine Expeditionary Force. The Marines are part of a force of approximately 5,000 Miramar Marines deploying

to the Persian Gulf region over the next few weeks in support of OIF II.

Family and friends showed up at the armory to say their last goodbyes before the Marines boarded buses that took them to the flight line.

It was accepted by many family members that the Marines would be leaving, but when it was time to go, it wasn't so easy to let go - with family members grasping and hugging tightly before the Marines left for good.

"I'm pretty upset about it, but there is nothing you can really do," expressed Cassandra Barajas, wife of Sgt. Ernest J. Barajas, plans clerk, Aviation Logistics Division, MWHS-3, as her 3-year-old son, Nathan, and 2-year-old daughter, Leah, played alongside her.

'She doesn't want me to go, but she knows what duty stands for and what we have to do.'

Cpl. Roberto Cervantes

is him leaving and not being around," she said. "(Nathan) gets a little upset when you talk about it. I'm sure it will affect (Leah) once she doesn't see daddy com-

ing home everyday because she loves having him around."

Barajas deployed for a second time after his return from Afghanistan just five months ago. He is expecting to only serve seven months this time in conditions similar to Afghanistan, but knows that anything can happen and is prepared to do what it takes to accomplish the mission.

"Six months doesn't seem that long to me after being gone for a year," said Barajas, a Madera, Calif., native. "The conditions will be similar in that it will be dry and dirty. I was stationed in Yuma, Arizona, and it was pretty hot there too, so I am use to the heat. I don't think it's going to be that hard at all. I am ready to go."

Sgt. Tarnisha Esco, technical publications library clerk, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, returned last July after serving a six-month deployment aboard the *USS Boxer* in support of OIF thinking that the Marines would not have to return. Unfortunately, this time it was her husband, Sgt. A.C. Esco, maintenance administration clerk, MWHS-3, who was ordered to deploy in support of operations in Iraq. She is, however, confident that her husband will be safe despite the reports of casualties the Army has suffered since the end of major combat operations last spring.

"It's going to be hard on us but I know he'll make it back," Esco said. "I think we are very prepared. We kind of know what to expect, and the only thing we can do is pray that he makes it home safely."

Her husband, a New Orleans native, is making his first deployment to Iraq after having served six years in the Marine Corps. He said it was tough for him when his wife deployed and was left to take care of their 2-year-old son, Amari, last year. Now that it is his turn to deploy, he already has an understanding of how hard things will be at home and is very much aware of how dangerous conditions are in Iraq.

"The good thing is we are going out to protect other people and fight for our country," he said.

Coming back home is on the mind of every Marine, but for 23-year-old Cpl. Roberto Cervantes, adjutant clerk, MWHS-3, it is especially important because his wife is due to have their first baby in August.

"Hopefully I'll be back soon," said Cervantes, a San Diego native who is experiencing his first separation from his wife after a year of marriage. "They say six or seven (months) but you never know because things can change out there. She doesn't want me to go, but she knows what duty stands for and what we have to do."

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



59°/43°
Today



61°/44°
Saturday



63°/44°
Sunday

**Kids
support
troops**



Page 4

**Brothers
stick
together**



Page 6

Staying the course in Iraq

Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti

Commander MCABWA, Commanding General MCAS Miramar

Marines go where they are needed, and it's no different than the front line of the war on terrorism, also known as Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soon, thousands of Marines will set foot again on familiar soil as they take up the charge to bring stability and security to the western region in Iraq.

Marines bring with them a lighter, more mobile capability fit for the nature of this low intensity conflict, which is much different than the combat power assembled to defeat Saddam's divisions and remove the former regime from power.

The challenges will be large as Marines take up the charge to earn the respect of local leaders, fight against the illusive enemies of the Iraqi people, build up civic infrastructure and equip, train and support Iraqi security forces throughout their area of responsibility.

America's finest fighting force joins forces with elements of the U.S. Army, more than 30 nations and 200,000 Iraqi security personnel throughout the country. Together, these forces will continue the progress made over the past year as we prepare to hand over complete sovereignty to the Iraqi people July 1.

To date, coalition forces have captured or killed 44 of the most wanted 55 former regime leaders and continue a relentless pursuit for those still hiding from the justice they will inevitably face. Recently, coalition forces captured Hassan Gihul, a direct link to Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the Al Qaeda mastermind behind the Sept. 11 attacks. As part of his capture, a 17-page letter revealed Al-Qaeda's vision and intent

for Iraq.

Their goal is clear - create instability through civil unrest and pit ethnic group against ethnic group in an attempt to slow progress toward democratic sovereignty. The capture of Gihul is great news for the people of Iraq, the coalition and the international community, as free people around the globe wage war on terrorism.

In addition to successful offensive operations in Iraq, coalition forces have spent more than \$150 million on 15,000 completed civil military projects, an effort that is central to our strategic mission of building a safe and secure Iraq.

With clean water, reliable electricity and functioning education, health and civic services, Iraqis can focus on creating a free and democratic Iraq in the center of a region that knows little of freedom and democracy.

The coalition's mission in Iraq is clear - help the Iraqi people stand on their own feet and build a free and democratic Iraq. Marines will play a crucial role in that mission as they help the struggling people of Ramadi, Fallujah and the Al Anbar Province, once again making their mark in American history.

Iraq's democratic future is certain as Iraqi sovereignty rapidly approaches. Combined Joint Task Force 7 remains committed to the task as we work with our most important partners, the Iraqi people, building a free, stable and sovereign Iraq.

Editor's note: Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti currently serves as the chief of staff for Combined Joint Task Force 7, the military command responsible for operations in Iraq.

Who's who in Marine Corps history *Remembering the first black Marine Medal of Honor recipient*

Compiled by MCAS Miramar PAO

Pfc. James Anderson Jr., who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam in February 1967, was born Jan. 22, 1947, in Los Angeles and graduated from Carver Elementary School in 1958. Then he attended Willowbrook Junior High School and Centennial Senior High School in Compton, Calif. After graduating from high school, he attended Los Angeles Harbor Junior College for a year and a half.

Anderson left college to enlist in the Marine Corps on Feb. 17, 1966, and received recruit training with the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

He transferred to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and received further training with 2nd Bn., 2nd Infantry Training Regiment.

In December 1966, Anderson arrived in the Republic of Vietnam, where he served as a rifleman with Fox Company, 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division, in Quang Tri Province. On Feb. 28, 1967, he was mortally wounded.

Anderson's Medal of Honor citation reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Company F

was advancing in dense jungle northwest of Cam Lo in an effort to extract a heavily besieged reconnaissance patrol. Pfc. Anderson's platoon was the lead element and had advanced only about 200 meters when they were brought under extremely intense enemy small-arms and automatic weapons fire. The platoon reacted swiftly, getting on line as best they could in the thick terrain, and began returning fire. Pfc. Anderson found himself tightly bunched together

with the other members of the platoon only 20 meters from the enemy positions. As the fire fight continued several of the men were wounded by the deadly enemy assault. Suddenly, an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the Marines and rolled alongside Pfc. Anderson's head. Unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his personal safety, he reached out, grasped the grenade, pulled it to his chest and curled around it as it went off. Although several Marines received shrapnel from the grenade, his body absorbed the major force of the explosion. In this singularly heroic act, Pfc. Anderson saved his comrades from se-

rious injury and possible death. His personal heroism, extraordinary valor, and inspirational supreme self-sacrifice reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps and upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."



Pfc. James Anderson Jr.

FLIGHT JACKET

The Flight Jacket is published every Friday at no cost to the government by Military Guides, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps under an exclusively written contract with the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for the military services, contents of the *Flight Jacket* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or the U.S. Marine Corps. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office. Comments or questions about editorial content should be directed to ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Military Guides, of the products or service advertised. Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All queries concerning business matters, display ads, or paid classified ads should be directed to Military Guides, 9636 Tierra Grande, Suite 201, San Diego, California 92126, or (858) 547-7343.

Maj. Gen.
Jon A. Gallinetti

*Commander
Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area,
Commanding General
MCAS Miramar*

Maj. Gen.
James F. Amos

*Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing*

Capt. Michael J. Friel
Director
Gunnery Sgt. Barry L. Pawelek
Public Affairs Chief
1st Lt. Carolyn M. Nelson
Internal and ComRel Officer
Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman
Internal Chief
Sgt. C. Nuntavong
Press Chief
Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez
Assistant Press Chief
Lance Cpl. Paul Leicht
Layout & Design

Contributors

Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III
Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.
Sgt. Joshua Stueve
Cpl. Kristen L. Tull
Cpl. James S. McGregor
Lance Cpl. John Sayas
Pfc. Skye Jones
Combat Correspondents

Miramar Mail



"What is the cell phone policy for driving on station and is it the same for every installation?"

**Sgt. David Taylor
Artillery
12th Marines**

Marine Corps Order 5100.19E with change 1-2 reads "To the maximum extent practical, all Marine Corps installation traffic codes shall assimilate the traffic codes of the state or nation in which the installation is located.

Operators of privately owned vehicles on all Marine Corps installations shall not use cellular phones while the vehicle is in operation, unless they are using a hands-free device.

A hands-free device is a feature that is included or available with most of today's cellular phones that permits a driver to use the telephone without lifting or holding the handset to the driver's ear."



Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti

Editor's note:

E-mail your questions to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar at:
ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil

Please include "Question to the General" in the subject line.

Aviation deputy commandant visits Miramar

Discusses plan for future of Marine Corps aviation

Story by Sgt. J.L. Zimmer III

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Lt. Gen. Mike Hough, deputy commandant for aviation, laid out this plan to more than 200 pilots and aviation maintenance support Marines at the Officers' Club here Feb. 17 during his command visit.

"The world you grew up in, the world you will raise your children in, has changed," he said. "To send you into battle without the best training and equipment would be immoral."

With aircraft reaching their maximum shelf life of 40 years, Headquarters Marine Corps aviation is fervently trying to acquire the funds necessary to replace equipment on the CH-53, CH-46 and UH-1 helicopters to have them combat ready for current and future operations in the war on terrorism.

"We are going to spend \$750 million to send Marine aviation units back to Iraq with new equipment," he said. "I will not send the helicopters back into action without this equipment."

According to Hough, there are currently more than half of the Marine Corps rotary-wing assets forward deployed in the war on terrorism.

"We need these aircraft now more than ever," he said. "They can take away any of our aircraft, but if they take away the CH-53 Sea Stallion, we cannot perform expeditionary operations. The 53s are the only (rotary-wing) aircraft that have an external payload of 23,000 pounds."

Another topic of discussion was the joint integration of fighter-attack aircraft.

According to Hough, the Navy/Marine Corps aviation team has its eyes on the next generation of fighter-attack aircraft — the Joint Strike Fighter.

"The JSF is a great aircraft," he said. "It will be used by the Navy and Marine Corps team for operations we are called to serve in."

Hough did not say all these ideas and plans would be easy, but they would be well worth it.



On guard

Marines from 1st Force Service Support Group's Mortuary Affairs Unit keep vigilant in the back of an imaginary vehicle while learning how to react to a convoy ambush Feb. 23 at Camp Victory, Kuwait. Insurgents in Iraq have attacked military convoys forcing the Marine Corps to focus on reacting to ambushes. The Marines are scheduled to relieve Army units in the area west of Baghdad and to conduct security and stability operations for the new Iraqi democracy to take root. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Samuel Bard Valliere*

ad

Get connected.



www.MarineForLife.com

Local school shows support

Story by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

“Extra, extra, read all about it! America’s the best, and there’s no doubt about it!” yelled Mira Mesa Christian School’s 3rd through 6th graders as they rallied outside Miramar’s north gate.

The students, staff and parents walked from their nearby school holding up banners and dressed in red, white and blue to show their support to the men and women in uniform.

“We really wanted to show our support for what’s going on and to show our patriotism,” said Terri Clark, principal of Mira Mesa Christian School.

This is the second year in a row they have held this event.

“Last year, with everything that was happening in the Middle East, we wanted to show our support for all of our military families.

So we had this rally, and it really worked out well,” said Clark. “The children had so much fun, and we had so much fun supporting our country we wanted to do it again this year.”

Clark said it was a little far for their kindergarten through 2nd graders to walk, so they paraded around the school grounds earlier the same day, also dressed in red, white and blue with banners and signs to show their support.

“The kids love it, they’re having a great time,” said Clark.

A 5th grader at the school who’s father is a

chief in the Navy, Karissa Ferrell, says she likes being out here because she can support her “forefathers.”

“It’s also a lot of fun with everyone honking and stuff,” said Farrell, adding that she likes her father being in the military.

“Sometimes it’s hard though, I miss him when he gets deployed,” said Farrell.

The students stood on the corner for about

‘We really wanted to show our support for what’s going on and to show our patriotism.’

Terri Clark



Students from Mira Mesa Christian School offer support for America’s troops during a lunchtime rally outside Miramar’s north gate Feb. 20. Photo by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

an hour yelling and screaming everything patriotic they could think of. Every time cars drove by and honked in support of what the kids were doing, the children got more ex-

cited and the louder they became.

“We just think the military men and women are so brave, and we are so thankful for what they are doing for us,” said Clark.



A crane carefully removes the main gearbox from a CH-53E in Okinawa, Japan. The gearbox is one of the hardest parts of disassembling the helicopter, since many parts must be disconnected before the gearbox can be removed. Photo by Sgt. Danny L. Patterson

‘Warhorses’ saddle up for Iraq

Story by Sgt. Danny L. Patterson

MCB Camp Butler Combat Correspondent

OKINAWA, Japan — The Marines of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, currently on the Unit Deployment Program here, are getting ready to deploy to Iraq sometime this month.

From January to July 2003, the Marines of HMH-465 supported Operation Iraqi Freedom. Shortly after their return, they began preparing for UDP, only to receive notice that they would soon be going back to Iraq.

During their preparation, the squadron faced many obstacles that had to be overcome prior to its departure, one of the most significant things being personnel changes. Nearly one-third of the squadron’s Marines departed due to permanent change of station orders or end of service. With force rotations hitting the squadron, many new Marines checked in, including 15 new pilots.

According to Lt. Col. Pete Zoretic, commanding officer, HMH-465, the new Marines needed to be trained. To bring everyone up to speed, the squadron used the “crawl, walk, run” method of teaching and had the Marines who participated in OIF share their experiences.

“We started in September with two combined arms exercises, a weapons tactics course, three tactical exercises, followed by mountain training,” the Columbus, Ohio, native said. “Once we arrived in Okinawa, we focused on night training because many missions we flew during OIF took

place during the night. Everyone needs to be ready for any mission at any time.”

Another factor added into the equation was losing three detachments of Marines and equipment to the 11th, 15th and 31st Marine Expeditionary Units.

In Okinawa, the squadron not only focused on training and qualifying Marines, but also diligently supported various missions tasked by III Marine Expeditionary Force.

A few weeks before the squadron stepped onto Air Force planes headed for Iraq with their equipment, the maintenance crew played a key role in making sure the squadron was ready to deploy. They meticulously tested the planes to make sure they were up to standards.

In addition to testing, the maintenance crew had another task taking the helicopters apart so they could be stowed on cargo planes. To do this, the helicopters were flown from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Kadena Air Base, where crews worked 12-hour days until all eight of the helicopters were disassembled.

According to Sgt. Chad M. McCracken, airframes and hydraulic mechanic for HMH-465, the maintenance personnel were very motivated to get the helicopters disassembled. Each day most Marines had to be told to stop working to get a night’s rest.

This round in Iraq holds many tasks for the squadron as they will join their parent command, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and provide heavy lift transport of vital equipment and personnel, which in turn provides stabilization and security of Iraq.

Celebrating Black History Month

Civil Rights leaders impact history, military

Story compiled by
Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Since 1976, the United States has celebrated the contributions of black Americans by designating the month of February as Black History Month - a time to honor the tremendous accomplishments of blacks throughout American history. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, black author and historian, established Negro History Week in 1926. The observance later evolved into the month-long celebration it is now.

The theme for this year is "Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas," commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legally ended racial segregation in public schools. Though the court's ruling did not abolish racial division in other public areas such as restaurants or restrooms, or give a specific timeframe for desegregation in the schooling system, it was one step toward racial equality.

From its establishment in 1775 to the early 1940s, the Marine Corps followed a policy of restricting service of non-Caucasians in the Corps. However, in 1942, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a presidential directive allowing black males to serve in the Marine Corps, and the secretary of the Navy decreed that black men could

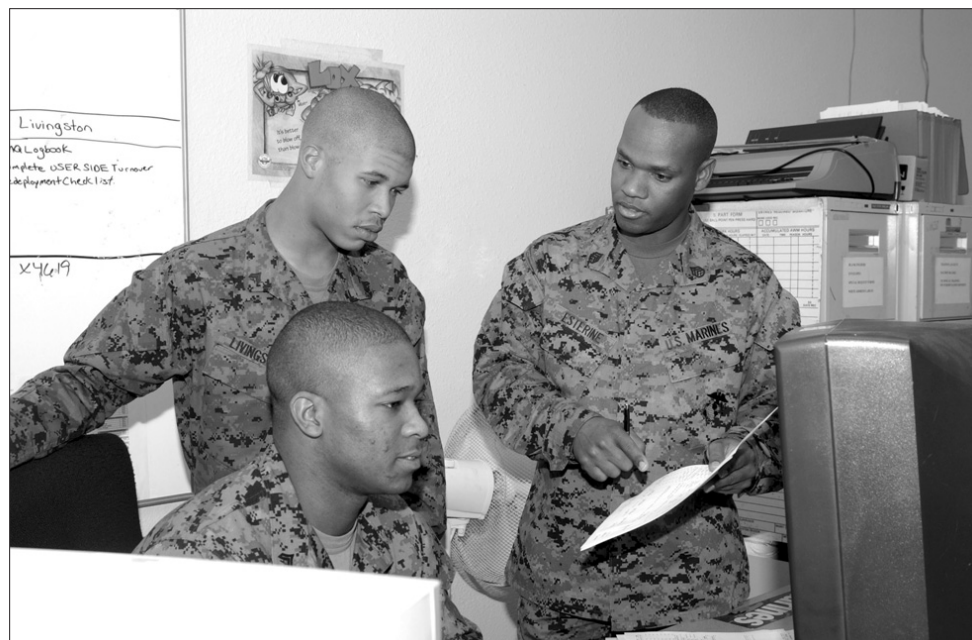
enlist beginning June 1 of that year.

Unlike their Caucasian counterparts who were sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and MCRD San Diego for training, all black recruits were trained at the Montford Point complex in Jacksonville, N.C. On June 26, 1948, President Harry Truman officially desegregated all services and allowed blacks and whites to train and serve together with Executive Order 9981.

Though not widely recognized as civil rights leaders, the Marines of Montford Point successfully persevered through a time of American turbulence.

Joseph C. Myers, one of the first black Marines, said, "Our focus became ... to be the best damn Marines ever, in peacetime and combat. We wanted to do well so that those who followed us would always have access to enlisting and the pride of belonging to an organization where black Marines had proven themselves worthy, especially on the battlefield."

Retired Sgt. Maj. James S. McCargo, former western region vice president of the Montford Point Marine Association, added, "It's a labor of love for me ... We have come a long way and yet have still a long way to go. The Marine Corps' principles that every Marine is a rifleman seems to be etched in stone. The Montford Point Marines have lived it, and we breath it (today)."



Cpl. Bruce A. Long (front), Cpl. Gary F. Livingston (left) and Staff Sgt. Nigel R. Esterine, maintenance administration clerks, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, discuss maintenance administration data. Photo by Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman



Marine brothers remain by each other's side

Story by Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

While some Marines join the service to leave home and visit new places, two brothers stationed here decided to join the Corps together. And for the past two years, they have stayed together.

Cpls. Adam Joseph, 23, and Andy James Knolla, 21, both aviation hydraulic technicians for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, joined the service for different reasons.

Andy knew from the beginning he wanted to be in the Corps because the Marines “seemed like the best. The Army, even the Navy and Air Force, seem like they take just anyone.”

Adam, on the other hand, worked with an aircraft company and lived life on his own after high school, but thought he could gain more from signing up with his brother.

“(I) went in with him into the recruiting office and saw everything they had to offer, and it was the same job field I was in. I am definitely in a position to extend my range of skill,” he said.

Andy added that “there was also the experience and travel and everything related to being a Marine” that made him want to pursue the Corps even more.

The two joined the Marine Corps in July of 2001 and have both seen two meritorious promotions.

Andy received his meritorious promotion out of boot camp for referring two potential recruits into the Marine Corps

and for graduating first in his class during his primary military occupational school in Pensacola, Fla.

Adam earned his meritorious promotion by finishing in the top 10 percent of his boot camp platoon and graduating first in his class during his secondary MOS school in Oceana, Va.

Though the competition would seem apparent, the brothers admit the only time competition is a factor is when they compete during their physical fitness tests.

“On the run he just has to try to catch me, ‘cause I beat everybody!” said Adam.

“Yeah, I don’t spend as much time practicing,” answered Andy.

After the brothers completed their formal schooling they both requested orders to Japan to get it “done and out of the way.” Being overseas in a new environment kept the brothers together due in part to Japan’s strict Liberty Buddy campaign.

“It’s a new place, and you have to have somebody with you. We never had a problem with the Liberty Buddy Policy. We’d go and check everything out,” said Adam.

The noncommissioned officers, natives of Wichita, Kan., are the eldest among five children and remain close to their family. Parents Mark and Sally, as well as brothers and sister Casey, Corey and Hanna, encourage the Marines to excel and stay near to each other.

“(My family) thinks it’s pretty cool that we we are not by ourselves. It makes them happy to know we’re together,” Adam said.



Cpls. Andy (left) and Adam Knolla, hydraulic technicians, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, repair components in their shop. Photo by Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman

The brothers say people who don’t know them well often mistake them for each other.

“Some people can’t tell us apart so (our co-workers) decided to have him wear blue coveralls and I wear green,” said Andy.

Airframes Division Staff Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge Gunnery Sgt. Marshall R. Alleman first worked with the Knolla brothers in Japan and has observed

the brothers’ abilities to work well together because of their similar thinking.

“The problem I have is that I don’t have two of them in every work center. Depending on what day of the week it is, they’re always pushing each other along,” commented the Morgan City, La., native. “They walk like each other, talk like each other and even look like each other. It’s like they have a psychic connection that no one else has.”

Teaching the ways of the Corps

Story by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Twelve times each year the Western Recruiting Region hosts approximately 80 high school and junior college educators through Educator Workshops.

Educator Workshops are considered by the Marine Corps to be the most valuable support program in the Corps’ recruiting arsenal.

Throughout their week-long visits, educators, guidance counselors and principals tour Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the air station to gain first-hand knowledge of the recruit experience and of the Fleet Marine Force.

The bulk of the time spent during the workshops is at the depot, however the tours at the air station and MCB Camp Pendleton are considered invaluable to the workshop experience.

It is through these tours the educators can follow Marines from recruit training and see first hand the job opportunities and educational benefits available to Marines.

Often, the educators selected to participate in the workshops have a negative attitude toward the Marine Corps, and life in the military in general.

This is by design, as the program is specifically intended to change those opinions and impart on them the ever-increasing need for highly-qualified recruits who will eventually become motivated Marines.

For one Missouri educator recently,

the thought of recommending a Marine Corps way of life to his students seemed unlikely.

However, after participating in an Educator Workshop, his view has changed.

“It’s been a great experience for me,” said Mike Dorris, Cape Gerardo Alternative School principal. “It has changed any doubts I had about recommending this to my students and to tell them it’s an experience of a lifetime.”

During the air station’s portion of the tours, the educators are given a brief about Miramar and its units.

The educators are then given the opportunity to talk with the commanding officer of either Marine Aircraft Group 11 or Marine Aircraft Group 16 before having a question and answer session with a panel of Marines of various ranks from various Miramar units.

This interaction allows the educators to get to know the Marines on a personal level who often times are only a few years older than their students. It also affords them the opportunity to hear straight from the Marines themselves what the Marine Corps lifestyle is like.

Following the session, the educators head to the flight line to see Marine Corps aircraft up close and to talk with aviation Marines.

“It really is great,” said Dorris. “You’re getting a first-hand view of things most people never see. This really is a great way to approach those who may be on the fence about recommending a military life to their students.”

ad

13th MEU (SOC) completes wash down in Guam

Story by Sgt. Mark P. Ledesma

13th MEU Combat Correspondent

GUAM — Marines and Sailors currently deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) completed their agricultural wash down after several days cleaning Feb. 18. The wash down completion is one of the MEU's final missions before arriving on U.S. soil early next month.

According to Capt. James L. Williams, assistant logistics officer, 13th MEU (SOC) Command Element, wash downs are a mandatory requirement by the U.S. Pacific Fleet for vessels entering the United States.

"Pacific Fleet requires us to have all our equipment and vehicles agriculturally certified to prevent us from bringing any plants or animals into the United States," said Williams. "We cannot go back to our port of entry without having everything certified."

The introduction of foreign plants, insects and animals to California could affect its ecology, said Williams. An example of this was introduction of the Mediterranean fruit fly to the United States, he said.

"They were introduced to the U.S. via cargo from ships that were not agriculturally certified," he said. "We had an epidemic of fruit flies in Southern California, which we spent millions of dollars trying to eradicate."

A number of certified agricultural inspectors of Marines and Sailors with the MEU and Expeditionary Strike Group 1 took on the task of assuring that every piece of gear was unsoiled.

"It has to be as clean as if it were coming out of an assembly line," said Williams.

Upon its arrival to Guam on Feb. 14, the MEU organized two quarantine locations for the wash down,



Marines and Sailors deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary (Special Operations Capable) conduct a 72-hour agricultural wash down in Guam Feb. 15. Weathering the heat and rain was one of the obstacles Marines endured throughout the arduous task of cleaning their gear. *Photo by Sgt. Adrian R. Pascual*

which took the Marines a couple of days to establish. Vehicles small enough to drive through the ships' side ramps, such as High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, were cleaned in designated areas in the port facility. Vehicles, such as 7-ton trucks, which were too large for the side ramps, were transported by Landing Craft, Air Cushion to a cleaning sight near a beach.

After its establishment the wash racks were manned and opened 72 hours straight until all the gear was cleaned and inspected. Weathering the heat and rain was one of the obstacles Marines had endured throughout the arduous days.

"The heat was pretty intense and a lot of Marines were sun burned," said Sgt. Versayn G. Reynaga Garcia, who was in charge of ensuring the wash racks ran smoothly. "A lot of the gear was hard to keep clean

because of the rain and the mud."

According to Reynaga Garcia, motor transportation operator, MEU Service Support Group 13, the only counter they had for the heat and sun was hydration and sunscreen lotion.

"We really couldn't sit in the shade because there really wasn't much shade out there," he said. "When the Marines had an opportunity to sit down, they would sit down and hydrate for a bit and continue their work."

According to Williams, all the Marines who were involved in the entire process completed their job phenomenally despite dealing with the constant rain, hot sun and humidity of the island.

"The Marines stepped up and they took care of things," said Reynaga Garcia.

MarForPac deputy commander assesses troop buildup in Kuwait

Story by Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon

MarForPac Combat Correspondent

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait — The deputy commander of Marine Corps Forces Pacific visited Marines from the I Marine Expeditionary Force currently deployed to Kuwait for the reception, staging, onward movement and integration phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

In assessing the current buildup of troops and equipment, Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee toured Camp Udairi, meeting with Marines from both 1st Marine Division and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

"Up to this point the deployment for OIF II has been a lot more smooth than the deployment for OIF I ... in that we have done just a great job of getting our supplies and people to the airfield ... and getting our equipment to the docks to put on board the ships," said McAbee. "It has all gone like clock work. This time it has gone virtually flawless."

Although not his first stop, McAbee's pause at the 7th Marine Regiment command post may have been his most important. It was there he saw the final product of armoring the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle A2.

In order to lower the cost of each vehicle, the Marine Corps decided to purchase the

5,200-pound HMMWV without the armor plating and add it on later.

"I think the most important difference between this time and last is the armor plating that is being placed on the HMMWVs, 7-ton trucks and other rolling stock. We didn't do or have that last time," McAbee said.

Although new armor was one of McAbee's highest priorities, it was not his only concern.

"The first hope that all of us have is that we return home uninjured," McAbee said.

"The second thing is that we want our Marines to develop and take home leadership skills and great tactical skills that will hold the Marine Corps to its standards for the next

30 years.

"We are developing our leaders and our combat proficiency. We want our good Marines to stay, to learn a lot, to come back and lead and make a career out of it."

While eating lunch with several junior enlisted Marines, McAbee reflected on the combat readiness of the Marines he saw at Camp Udairi.

McAbee added, "I don't think we have ever sent a group of Marines and Sailors into harm's way who are better led, better manned or better equipped than the force that we are getting ready to send into Iraq. All Americans should take a great deal of pride in their Marine Corps."

'The first hope that all of us have is that we return home uninjured.'
Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee

Runners' club takes off

Story by Pfc. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The MCAS Miramar Runners' Club held its first meeting Feb. 20 for all interested active duty servicemembers here.

The Marine Corps Community Services sponsored club encourages Marines to continue with their goals alongside other Marines who have similar ambitions, said Michele J. Bean, athletic fitness and aquatics administrative assistant and San Diego native.

"People who don't race can train with people who do," she said. "This gives them something to strive for."

Marines can train, improve their physical fitness and have fun at the same time, said Bean.

In addition to monthly meetings there will be running meetings twice a week to encourage more training.

Members currently run at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the track located by the Miramar Sports Complex. However, due to members' varying schedules, different times for running meetings will be established.

As well as the running meetings, there might be "fun runs" in places like Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif., mentioned Cpl. Amie E. Bashant, analyst and system administrator for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, who fashioned the idea to create the Runners' Club.

To help out with each member's individual running goals, there will also be a clinic every other month, said Bean.

"We might have a nutritionist and an experienced triathlete come out," mentioned Bean.

To promote a bond between club members, there

See CLUB, page 11

Marines run, play poker with heart

Story by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The race started with everyone carrying a white envelope containing a single playing card. Starting and finishing at Miramar Sports Complex, contestants gathered a total of five cards throughout the race. The winner wasn't the first person to cross the finish line, but the person with the best poker hand.

This was the theme used to promote heart awareness and overall fitness during the 2004 Healthy Heart 5k Run/Walk here Feb. 19. The race was open to military members and their families as well as all Department of Defense personnel.

"February is Healthy Heart and Cardiovascular Fitness Month," said Lynn Sanchez, Health Promotion Director with Marine Corps Community Services. "We try to tie this run into getting education and awareness out there for that topic."

Sanchez said this is the 13th consecutive year for the poker run here on Miramar.

"We're just really trying to make them aware of the risk factors that contribute to heart disease and how most of them are preventable just by lifestyle changes," said Sanchez.

Booths were set up at the start and finish lines with information packets, fresh fruit and water as well as free blood pressure screenings.

"I think this is a fun run for the Marines because it's not timed," said Sanchez. "It's fun for them to grab the cards along the run and see what kind of poker hand they get. It sort of levels the playing field in terms of winning."

Prizes ranged from a hotel package including dinner and a movie, Sea World and hockey tickets.

For Cpl. Donavon G. Barney, Ordnance technician, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, this is the second time he has participated in the poker run. He



Marine participants start running with a white envelope containing a playing card in hopes of collecting the best hand during the 2004 Miramar Healthy Heart 5k Run/Walk Feb. 19. Photo by Cpl. Kriten L. Tull

says it's always a good time, and it helps him prepare for his upcoming physical fitness test.

"It's still the same fun event as it was the first time," said Barney after finishing second in the race. "It seems like it's bigger this year. There are more booths and people sticking around after the run."

See RUN, page 11

Chapel weekly schedule of events

Holy Family Catholic Community

- ♦ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ♦ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ♦ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sunday or for appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ♦ Religious classes for children for first communion, confirmation: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday.
- ♦ Youth gathering and planning following mass Sunday.
- ♦ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call the chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Marriage: Call chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ♦ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel classroom.
- ♦ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

Liturgical Christian

- ♦ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m. Young Adults Fellowship at 5:30 p.m.
- ♦ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.
Women's bible study at 10:45 a.m.
Baptist service at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Friday: Baptist bible study at 7 p.m.

Jewish

- ♦ First Friday of the month at MCRD San Diego at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Last Friday of the month in Edson Range Chapel Camp Pendleton at 7:30 p.m.

MOSC scholarships

The Marine Officers' Spouse's Club at Miramar has announced 2004 scholarships. Applications must be received no later than April 1, 2004.

The scholarships are not need-based.

The MOSC will also award scholarships sponsored by the First Command Educational Foundation.

Recipients of the MOSC and FCEF scholarships must be spouses or children of Miramar active duty, retired or deceased military members.

Scholarship applications are available at the MCAS Miramar Library or online at www.miramar.usmc.mil/mosc.htm.

Racquetball clinic

Two-time National Racquetball Champion and five-time National Racquetball Team member Tim Doyle will be coming to Miramar to teach a two-hour racquetball clinic March 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Miramar Sports Complex.

Donated prizes will be available for attendees as well as the chance to meet and greet Doyle.

For more information, call the Athletic Office at 577-4127/7700.

Baby boot camp

The New Parent Support Program is offering a baby boot camp class for parents with children ages six and under on the first Monday of each month from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in building 2273.

Parenting the Toddler is a two-part class focusing on parenting children from 18 months to three years. The class covers growth and development, discipline, temper tantrums, play activities, safety, toilet training, bedtime routine, eating habits, diaper changing and more.

Childcare reimbursement is available.

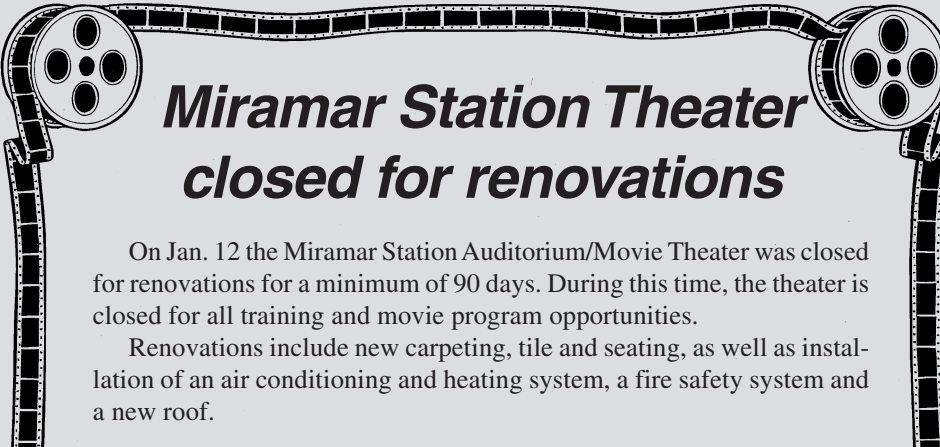
The NPSP also offers Play Mornings for mothers and children on Tuesdays, as well as other programs for children six and under.

Space is limited and attendees are encouraged to register early.

For more information or to register for class, call 577-9812.

PCS class at JRC

The Joint Reception Center is offering a free "PCS with Success" class March 16 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the JRC inside building 2258. To register or for more information, call 577-1428.



Miramar Station Theater closed for renovations

On Jan. 12 the Miramar Station Auditorium/Movie Theater was closed for renovations for a minimum of 90 days. During this time, the theater is closed for all training and movie program opportunities.

Renovations include new carpeting, tile and seating, as well as installation of an air conditioning and heating system, a fire safety system and a new roof.

Education Fair

The Youth Sports Complex will host an Education Fair, offering attendees the chance to meet with area schools March 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Featured schools include Chapman University, Webster University, San Diego City College and many more.

For more information, call 577-1801.

Charity golf tourney

The Marine Officers' Spouse's Club at Miramar is hosting a charity golf tournament March 12 here.

The all-hands tournament tees-off at 8 a.m.

Prizes and a luncheon will be offered at the Miramar Officers' Club following the tournament.

For more information, e-mail jerryrae@aol.com or pick up a registration form at the Miramar Staff NCO Club or the Miramar O'Club.

Registration ends March 1.

Miramar surf team

The Hawaii Military Surfing Ohana organization is open for new members.

HMSO offers numerous surfing contests, youth summer surf programs and trips to Hawaii, Mexico, Japan and the East Coast.

The Miramar Surf Team is forming now.

For more information, call Semper Fit Sports at 577-1202.



**For information on
deployed 3rd MAW Marines,
call the Dictaphone at
1-877-616-8762.**

**For more information, call
577-7397 or 7294.**

CLUB,
continued from page 9

will be an MCCS sponsored event (i.e. a barbeque) quarterly, revealed Bean, and organizers are trying to implement member participation in civilian and military races as well.

The club also has an incentive program to motivate its members and is used to encourage members to run, described Bean. The program is based entirely on integrity.

Runners receive rewards based on how many miles or minutes they run. After 100 miles or 1,000 minutes, a member receives a shirt with the Runners' Club logo on it. After 250 miles or 2,500 minutes, a long sleeve shirt is rewarded. When a member completes 500 miles or runs 5,000 minutes, they receive a hooded sweatshirt. Other rewards, such as towels and water bottles, can be earned as well.

"Everyone has different goals, but working toward the accomplishment of those goals together produces results," said Bashant.

"It does not matter what level a runner is at, any active duty member can participate in the club," said Bean. "The Runners' Club will exist or not exist, depending on its members.

"It's about time they had (a runners' club)," said Sgt. Trent L. Williams, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Staff Judge Advocate's of-

fice. "It seems like it will be a good structured program that promotes health."

The MCAS Miramar Runners' Club will hold its next meeting March 5 at noon in the conference room of the Semper Fit Center. The club will meet the first Friday of every month.

Club membership forms can be picked up and dropped off at marked boxes at the Miramar Sports Complex and the Semper Fit Center.

For more information call the Athletic Office at 577-7700 or 4127.

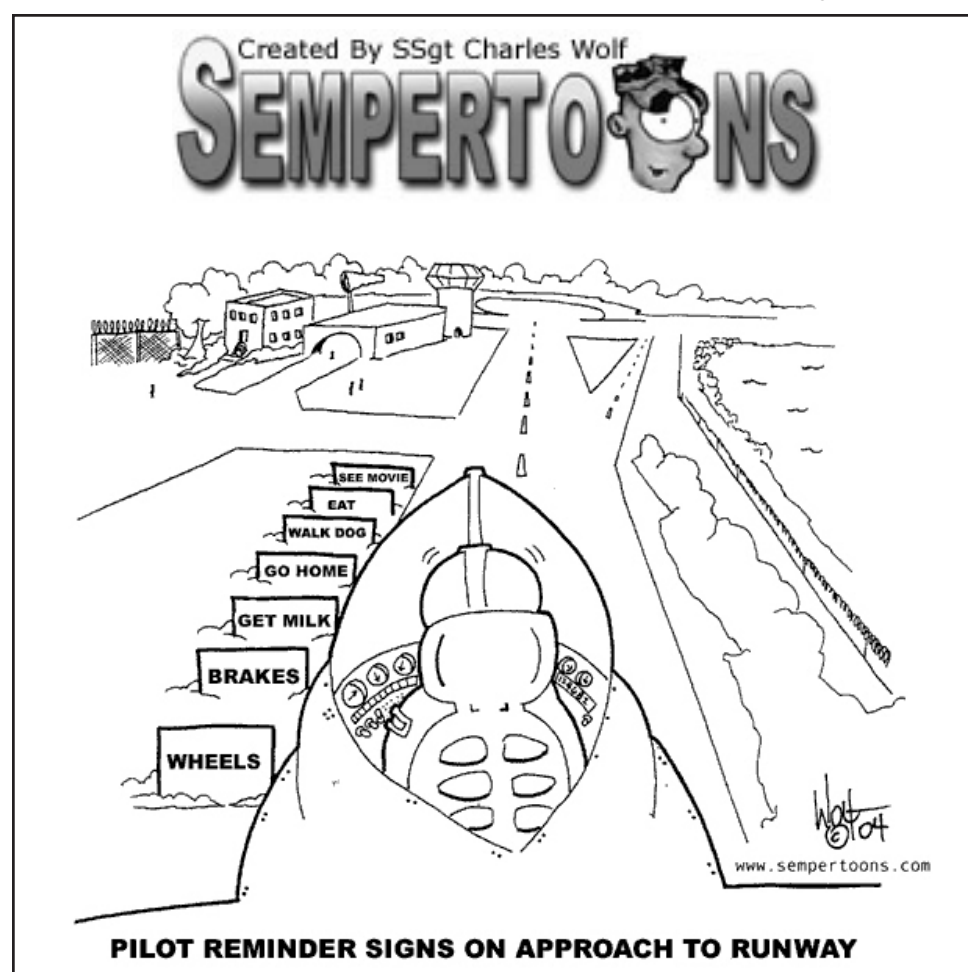
RUN,
continued from page 9

Barney said he had a lot of fun and made some new friends along the way.

"One of the people I was running side-by-side with is in a runners club. We're going to keep in contact and he's going to help me with my run time," said Barney.

Sanchez says in addition to the poker run, MCCS offers all kinds of programs for health promotion.

For more information on these programs or other promotional runs, contact MCCS at 577-4157 or log onto www.miramar.usmc.mil.



classifieds